

Copy to H. W. H. H. H.

COMMENTARY

Sunday, December 8, 1961

West County Times—12A

Lawrence Costa Co., CALIF.

Oswald was JFK's sole assassin: Here's how he did it

By David Barnes

Lee Harvey Oswald, and only Lee Harvey Oswald, was the assassin of President John F. Kennedy. The Warren Commission report summarized this, while at the same time proving it could not be done by a single living marksman, no matter how good and how many times that person fired. The best shooter the FBI could find took half again as long as the Zapruder film of the assassination at Dealey Plaza.

My investigation shows how the assassination was done by a lone gunman, Oswald. The Zapruder film shows Kennedy was hit twice in about 1 1/4 seconds. Oswald was shooting a bolt action rifle. The Warren Commission report says no living expert can do that. The fastest time the FBI managed was 2.3 seconds.

That also means Oswald, or any other human, certainly could not have done the shooting alone.

The problem is to resolve the shooting time, an established and unalterable fact, with what is humanly possible. This was not done by the Warren Commission or any of the investigating writers heretofore. Some of the clues the Warren Commission saw and even handled were not recognized as clues.

Here are six clues: the shooting time of 1 1/4 seconds; the paraffin test of Oswald's right cheek; the position of the boxes on the floor of the School Book Depository; the position of the boxes at the window; the cut on Oswald's left eye; and the sling on Oswald's rifle. These are all noted facts. Each one has at least two Warren Commission exhibit numbers.

The sling clue is the most obvious, easiest to comprehend and least understood. The experts tripped over it. The old military rifle Oswald used has a standard broad hunting rifle sling attached. It has a standard broad



LEE HARVEY OSWALD, with bruised left eye, talks to the press after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

piece attached to it near one end. The experts thought it was attached backward or in the reversed position.

They never could figure out that it was attached correctly for Oswald's style of rapid shooting.

Oswald obviously outshot all the FBI sharpshooters, most of whom were far superior to Oswald as a rifleman. So Oswald must have somehow done something different. But everything was normal, that is, except for

the reversed sling.

How can this be an advantage in shooting? If you put the sling backward around the left shoulder, instead of forward to the usual forearm supporting the front of the rifle, the left hand can trigger the weapon and grip the stock in place of the right hand.

Now the right hand operates only the bolt. It does nothing else. There are no wasted motions of the trigger hand to the bolt and back to the trigger. The cycling time of the weapon is much quicker.

The front of the rifle is unsupported, therefore, it needs boxes or some support to hold it up. The gun can now operate extremely rapidly. Two photos of Oswald dated prior to the assassination show Oswald wearing a band gun and holding his rifle. The wide part of the sling is forward the butt of the rifle. This shows that Oswald wanted the sling that way for a reason. I tested the theory using a borrowed rifle.

I took a tape recorder and a stop watch to the rifle range. I shot 10 groups of two shots each. In all but one group I was able to get two shots off in 1 1/4 seconds or less, using what I believe was Oswald's method. My one failure was still under two seconds. My worst time best of the best FBI time.

I am a right-handed amateur. I never have had any formal training with a rifle, though I have been trained with a handgun.

How does this go along with the paraffin test of the right cheek? That test was negative. It should be, if Oswald shot the rifle from the left shoulder.

In no way did the rifle touch Oswald's right cheek. The left cheek was not tested. It should have been. It must also be noted that a shooter might not get powder stains from the stock of a rifle just fired.

If someone shot from the left shoulder, looking

through the telescopic sight, might he in the process cut his right eye? Certainly not. But he might cut his left eye. Oswald had a beautiful crescent cut over his left eye which we have figured to be the shooting eye.

It looks exactly as if he had been hit with a cockle-butter that was about three-fourths of an inch in diameter. It's a precise match for the cut the recoiling scope would leave. If the cut had been caused by a file, elbow, palm or so on, the tissue around the eye would be more heavily bruised.

This cut was shown on many, many different photographs. It is written in the Warren report that Oswald was asked what caused the cut. His answer was, "A policeman hit me." The commission accepted the word of the liar and murderer. (Oswald had also killed a policeman) without serious cross-examination. This cut points toward the left-shoulder theory and tends to confirm it.

The FBI says Oswald did his shooting from the book depository. Photos of the area showed boxes in the window. Something was necessary to hold up the unsupported front end of the rifle. The boxes in the window confirm the left-shoulder theory. If anyone fired from the right shoulder, those boxes would be in the way.

Only by shooting from the left shoulder can any person nest among the boxes on the floor comfortably and shoot well.

I believe the rifle can actually be fired three times in that second and a half. Oswald apparently practiced a lot. We don't know if anyone actively supported Oswald. From my limited readings, I don't think so. Marina Oswald watched her husband practice and possibly shoot. She was never asked how he shot or practiced.

David Barnes of San Pablo is a writer and former construction worker.

Century of Paul Hoch.

This reminds me of the shooting in the Sea of Cortez. "No Naves movie."

#1992.15